AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir. No reference has, however, been received in this Department from the Chief Justice of India, in this behalf.

(b) and (c) Various steps have been taken by the Government from time to time, to reduce overall pendency in the courts. A Committee of 3 Chief Justices of High Courts has been constituted in January, 1989 to make an indepth study of the problem of arrears in Courts and to suggest remedial measures.

Seizure of Ball Bearings being smuggled into India from Nepal

187. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has recently seized ball bearings worth Rs.20 lakhs which was being smuggled into India from Nepal in two trucks;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and also the number of persons apprehended in this connection; and

(c) what fresh steps Government are taking to check illegal smuggling across Indo-Nepal border?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) On 18th March, 1990 the Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence intercepted two trucks near Faizabad and seized ball bearings of foreign origin valued at Rs.11.98 lakhs approximately. The two trucks valued at Rs.7.50 lakhs were also seized. Investigations have revealed that the two trucks had crossed over into India from Nepal. Three persons i.e. two drivers and one cleaner of the trucks have been arrested.

(c) The anti-smuggling agencies remain alert to check such smuggling from across the Indo-Nepal border. Closed co-ordination is being maintained amongst all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling. Co-ordination meetings are also being held with the officers of the State Governments. Special drives are also launched along the borders to curb smuggling.

Pending Cases in Madras High Court

188. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of civil, criminal and other miscellaneous matters pending in the Madras High Court;

(b) what is the category-wise number of cases pending for the last ten, five and three years;

(c) what is the number of vacancies in the Madras High Court; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the strength of the Madras High Court; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) As on 31-12-1988, 116255 civil, 7561 criminal and 101820 miscellaneous matters were pending in Madras High Court.

(b) The category-wise details are as under:

(As on 31-12-1988)

	Over 10 Years	Over 5 Yrs.	Over 3 Yrs.
Civil Cases	758	27100	55683
Criminal Cases	1	125	795
Miscellaneous cases	123	4043	24001

(c) As on 30-4-1990, there were 2 vacancies of Judges out of the sanctioned strength of 25 Judges.

(d) The creation of 7 new posts of Judges has been agreed to.